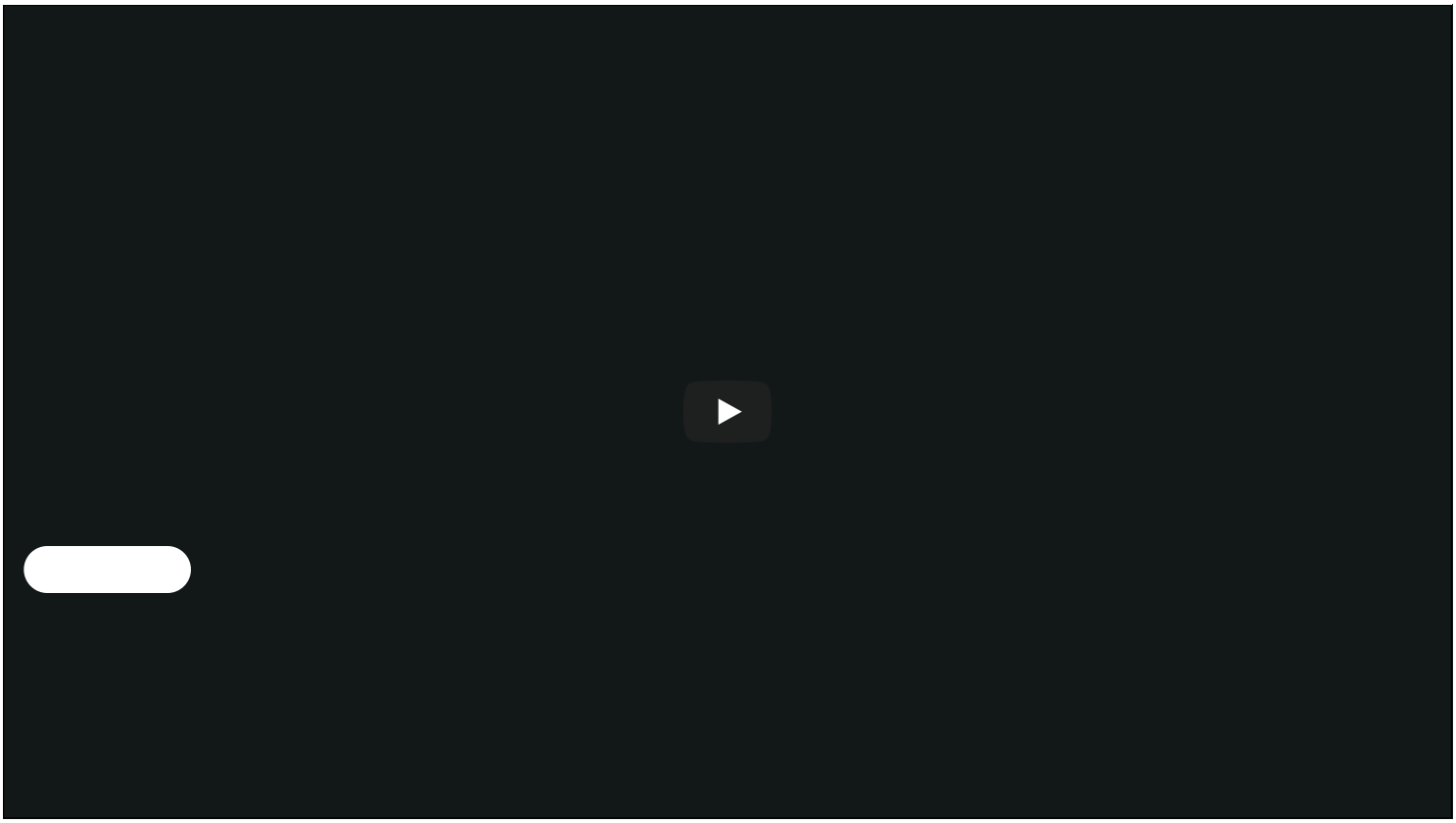

The Holocaust

Wikipedia • The Holocaust was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews across German-occupied Europe, around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population.

Ukraine's Darkest Secret: The Holocaust They Don't Teach You In Schools

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Among the many things that the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine did was bring two groups of people together who, nearly 80 years before, had been at each other's throats - literally. Today, Poland and Ukraine are close allies, and Poland has supplied Ukraine with billions of dollars of supplies, equipment, and weapons to help it fight off Putin's invasion.

There are very few people alive who experienced the events we're going to tell you about today, but if they were, they would likely be shocked that Poland and Ukraine are so close. What's more, they would be amazed that though it took 80 years to happen, the President of Ukraine recognized that during the last half of WWII and for a time after the was over, his Ukrainian countrymen ran amok through the northwestern part of the country and parts of southeastern Poland trying to exterminate every ethnic Pole living in what they believed should be part of a Ukrainian state – made up of Ukrainians – only.

No country lost a higher percentage of its population in WWII than Poland. Nearly 1 in 5 Poles lost their lives during the war, including ethnic Poles, Polish Jews, and others. Almost six million Poles lost their lives during the war out of a pre-war population of 34 million. When you then consider the number of people sent to the Nazi death camps during the war, approximately 10-12 million people were killed in Poland from 1939-45. Poland is about the size of New Mexico, and it became a graveyard.Unfortunately for Poland, its geographic location has put it in the path of many other nations, kings and empires. To the north is Sweden, which occupied large swathes of northern Poland for many years in the 17th and 18th centuries. To the west is Germany, and before 1871, the most powerful German kingdom, Prussia. To the south were the Austrian and Austro-Hungarian empires, and to the east – the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union – which sometimes included the territory of today's Ukraine.From 1772 to 1918, Poland's territory was divided between Prussia/Germany, Austria, and Russia. When World War One ended, the Poles, aided by the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, won their independence. In the southeastern region of Eastern Galicia, a large part of the population was ethnic Ukrainian. In the province just to the north, known as Volhynia in English and "Volyn'sko" in Ukrainian and Polish, a slight majority of the people were ethnic Ukrainians. Before the Holocaust, about 30% of the people in Volhynia were Jews. Most of the rest were Poles, along with some Roma and a small ethnic group called the Lemko.Until WWII, most Poles and Ukrainians in Volhynia got along. So many ethnicities had lived, shared, and governed the region for so long that a sense of shared history and interdependence had developed, making the outbreak of violence all the more shocking and tragic.

#ukraine #holocaust #history

Music: Epidemic music

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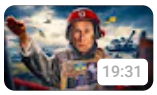

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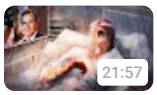

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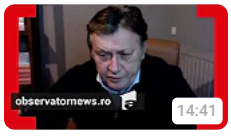

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